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x.

It's time for me to look about;
 There's a proclamation just gone out;
 There's fifty pounds bid on my head,
 To bring me in alive or dead.
 And it's oh, bold Captain Freney!
 Oh, bold Freney, oh!

"After Freney's pardon, unlike most persons of his class, he never relapsed into a course of dishonesty. Having been unable to procure the means of emigrating, Lord Carrick's influence procured for him a small public office, that of a tide-waiter at the port of New Ross, and he always maintained a character for integrity and propriety in that situation. He lived to so good an age, that many people still alive remember to have seen him in their childhood; and, so far from any stigma being considered to rest on his character, he was rather viewed as a celebrity, and his conversation courted and encouraged by people of the better class of society.¹ His grave, in the churchyard at Innistiogue, is pointed out as an object of interest by the peasantry of the locality, but is unmarked by a grave-stone."

The following paper was then submitted to the Meeting.

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARY AT ADARE.

BY RICHARD R. BRASH, ESQ., ARCHITECT.

ADARE, Adair, Athdara in Irish, Ath-daíre, the ford of oaks, or of the oak-wood, from ath, a ford, daire, an oak, is a post town situated in the barony of Coshma and county of Limerick: it is a small, picturesquely situated town on the river Maig, or Maigue, a tributary of the Shannon.

The Irish Annals give very little information respecting the early history of this place. In the thirteenth century it came into

¹ O'Keeffe, the dramatist, tells us that he met Freney whilst he was acting with a theatrical company in Kilkenny, and thus describes him:—

"One day, I was, with some others, taking a repast in a tavern there [Kilkenny], when a little man walked in; he was elderly, and had but one eye. Some person asked him to take a glass; he did so. This man was the once remarkable and, indeed, notorious, bold Captain F——, of whom were made ballad-songs. He was the audacious and resolute leader of the Rapparees. When a General

with a troop of horse went to take him prisoner, Captain F—— called out, and said he would surrender, if the General would ride up to him alone; the other complied; the Captain placed his pistol to the General's breast, and took from him his purse and watch, in view of the whole troop of soldiers. His companions suffered by the law, but the Captain himself was made county keeper, and was of great use in preventing those outrages, of which he himself was once the most daring ringleader and perpetrator."—"Recollections of the Life of John O'Keeffe," vol. i. p. 213.

the possession of the house of Desmond. A. D. 1310. A grant of murage and customs was made by Edward the Second to the bailiffs and good men of the town of Athdaire. A. D. 1376. Edward the Third exempted the provost and commonalty from all service and customs, until the town, which had been recently destroyed by the Irish, should be rebuilt. A. D. 1326. The second Earl of Kildare erected a castle on the site of a more ancient one belonging to the sept of the O'Donovans.

A. D. 1579.¹ Adare was garrisoned by the English forces.

A. D. 1583.² John Carrach, the son of William, son of Theobald Burke, an heir to a property along the river Suir, in Tipperary, who continued in treason till this time, came in on protection. After the death of the Earl of Desmond, he went in pursuit of prey into the country of the Geraldines, and did not halt until he arrived at Adare in Limerick, where he collected all the cattle of the place. The guards of the town rose out to attack the plunderers. John, with his small party of horsemen, having turned on the guards, was struck on the head with a sure aim by the shot of a ball through his helmet, so that he was thrown from his horse. His party, however, carried off the prey, but left John behind them. He was afterwards brought to Limerick, where he was hanged by the Commissioners of Limerick.

The Franciscan Friary, the cloister of which is the subject of the accompanying illustrations, is romantically situated in the magnificent demesne of the Earl of Dunraven, to whose antiquarian zeal and care is owing its present state of preservation. The hand of educated taste is visible in the judicious reparations which it has undergone. Would that all our architectural remains had such careful custodians as have the abbeys at Adare.

This Friary does not date from a very ancient period: its foundation is very accurately given by the Four Masters, as follows:—

“A. D. 1464. A monastery for Franciscans was founded at Athdara (Adaire), in Munster, in the diocese of Limerick, on the banks of the river Mague, by Thomas Earl of Kildare, and Judith, the daughter of James Earl of Desmond, where they erected a tomb for themselves.”

Fitzgerald and M'Gregor,³ in their *History and Topography of the County of Limerick*, state that it was founded by Thomas Earl of Kildare (for Grey or Observantine friars) and Joan his wife, daughter of Thomas Earl of Desmond, and that it was consecrated on the 29th of September, 1464, when the noble founders presented it with two silver chalices and a bell, which cost ten pounds. They

¹ “Annals of the Four Masters,” 1846.

² *Idem*.

³ Fitzgerald and M'Gregor's “History of Limerick,” vol. i. p. 336.

further inform us, that Thomas the Earl died in 1478, and his Countess in 1486, and that they were buried in the choir.

These authors evidently quote from Archdall's "*Monasticon*," but they erroneously state that the above-named Countess was daughter of Thomas; whereas she was daughter of James Earl of Desmond. The following notices from Archdall,¹ in reference to this foundation, will be found interesting: he states that it—

"Was founded in the east part of the town in the year 1465, by Thomas Earl of Kildare and Joan his wife, daughter of James Earl of Desmond; the church of the friary, built at the sole expense of the Earl and Countess, was consecrated 29th September, 1464, when the noble founders presented it with two silver chalices and a bell, which cost £10. The Earl also made a grant of the ground whereon the friary was erected, with a garden, an orchard, and a certain large enclosure, together with eight messuages, seven acres of small measure, and convenient pasturage. Thomas the Earl died 25th March, 1478, and his Countess lived to the year 1486, when she was interred in the choir.

"Raymond de Burgh, who died on the 29th of July in the year 1562, chose this friary for the place of his sepulture.

"At the general suppression the prior of this house was found seized of the same, with a pidgeon-house, seventy acres of land within the precincts, also of the tithes thereof, and two ploughlands adjoining the friary, one called Upland, or Bernard, and the other the Castle and half ploughland of Robertstown; the village and half ploughland of Kilkerely, alias Kilcoyle, alias Kilbride; the field of Gormore near Adaire, and sixteen acres adjoining; the meadow or marsh of Corkinminister, lying on the south side of the friary; the mill and water-course of Castle Roberts; a mill and water-course in Adaire; two salmon-weirs on the river Mage, and an eel-weir in the parish of Adaire; the meadow of Nonyshaghreherees, situated on the south of the friary, and a garden plot near to the same; the rectory and vicarage of the town and parish of Adaire, together with all the tithes issuing from the following towns, viz. Adaire, Finitstown, Lissemarry, Choro, Toagh, Kilnockane, Liskcalla, Graige, Derryvenane, Knockane, Ballylongford, Currowe, Kilrogan, Comyns, Boalbally, Castle Robert, Reynroe, Cloghrane, Killivaraghe, Rower, Faningstown, Liscollybehy, Gowlane, Ballymacclery, Glanenoe, half of Ballygeill, and from all the lands in the parish of Adaire.

"This friary, with its possessions, containing sixteen acres of land, a church, &c. three parks, a water-mill and water-course, with a fishing-weir on the river Mage, was granted to Sir Henry Wallop, Knight, 4th November, 37th Queen Elizabeth, together with twenty acres, one small park, and one carve of land in the fields of Adaire; two messuages, twelve acres, and half a carve of land in Castle Roberts, and a ruinous castle; three messuages, two cottages, twenty-four acres of arable and six of pasture; a water-mill and water-course, and half a carve of land in Kilcoile, alias Kilcrill; with the tithes of the rectories of Adaire, Ballifuiter, Choro, Cloghran, Twoth, Curragh, Killnage, Roer, Kilcrill,

¹ Archdall's "*Monasticon Hibernicum*," pp. 416-17.

Ballyrobert, Ballyfanynge, and half of Balligoell, all in this county, and within the parish of Adaire (alterages excepted), and a fishing weir on the river Mage, parcel of the possessions of the monastery of the Preaching or Dominican Friars of Adaire. Thus it is mentioned in the records, but no traces of this friary can now be found, save a lofty square steeple."

From the extracts now given, it appears that the possessions and endowments of this Friary were extensive and valuable: the remains also of this monastic building indicate its importance, and the great care bestowed on its erection.

There is no doubt of the correctness of the dates assigned to this erection in the foregoing extracts. The architectural details of the whole building point unmistakably to the middle of the fifteenth century, and afford a silent but conclusive corroboration of the dates assigned to its erection in the documents already recited.

The religious edifices erected in Ireland during the middle and latter part of the *fifteenth* century will not bear comparison with similar structures of the same era in England and on the Continent. In them we look in vain for the *panelled* and richly embattled tower, the lofty and *many-transomed* window, the traceried ceiling, the canopied niche, the gorgeous panelling, which indicate the peculiar architecture of the period. With us everything is plain, ornament rarely attempted, and sculpture almost exclusively confined to tombs and monuments: the details are characterized by simplicity, yet are oftentimes chaste in design and elegant in execution: the mouldings are few in their members, yet well grouped and effective, more care being taken in the execution of the masonry in this than in the two preceding periods.

The building under notice is an admirable illustration of the architecture of the period, and as such is worthy the attention of the architectural antiquary.

The group of buildings at present in existence comprise the abbey church, the cloister, ambulatory, refectory, dormitories, kitchen, and the ruins of some minor buildings. The abbey church is in good preservation—thanks to the well-directed care of the Earl of Dunraven: it consists of a nave, chancel, and south transept, which has a western aisle and three chapels.

The entrance is at the south-west corner, by a plain, pointed doorway, with chamfered jambs, but without label molding; it is 3 feet 9 inches in width, and 6 feet 6 inches high to soffit of arch. Inside the doorway is a mutilated stoup. The nave is 64 feet in length and 19 in breadth, clear of walls: the west window is of three lancet lights, with label moldings: the north wall of nave appears to have been almost entirely occupied by a range of recessed altar-tombs, three of which remain, and are of similar design, differing only in dimensions and trifling details: under them are small arched vaults, used for interments, but no inscriptions remain, nor

any record to show for whom they were erected. The original windows in this side of the nave appear to have been built up, two only existing, which appear to be of a later date, being small, square-headed, of two lights, with chamfered jambs and mullions.

The single transept which generally exists in the abbey churches of this order in Ireland is, as usual, at the south side (see my article on the Local Antiquities of Buttevant, in the "Transactions," vol. ii. p. 83, first series); it is connected with the nave by two acute pointed arches, resting on a central octagonal shaft, with cap, and base moldings. In one of the side piers under the arch is a small pointed piscina, with square basin, the shelf of which projects, and is chamfered.

This transept has a western aisle opening to it by three pointed arches, without chamfers or moldings, resting on rectangular piers, perfectly plain, and having neither caps nor bases. The dimensions of transept are—length, 48 feet; breadth, 30 feet, including the aisle, which is 8 feet in width. At the south end of aisle is a window of two lights with ogee heads, under a horizontal label externally. There is a small chapel off this aisle projecting westward, and at the south end it is 11 feet square in clear of walls, and has in the west wall one single-light, circular-headed window, with chamfered jambs. From the whole appearance of this aisle, and from the inferiority of its workmanship, I would pronounce this portion of the building to be of a much later date than the rest. The south window of the transept is of four lights, the chamfered mullions simply crossing each other without cusps: it has a label molding externally. Immediately under, and to the east side, is a recessed altar-tomb similar to those in the nave, but having an elliptical arch. In the east wall, close to the south gable, is a small-pointed arch, piscina with molded jambs and arch, and basin of eight foils. The only window in the east wall adjoins the above-mentioned piscina, and is very plain, of two lights, with label molding externally. At the east side of transept are two chapels projecting outwardly: the first of these, to the left as you enter the transept, is 19 feet in clear from east to west, and 10 feet from north to south; it has two recessed altar-tombs at each side, of similar form to those in the nave, the only variation being in the carved finials over the centres, which are of different designs in each; it is lighted by one window in the east side, of two lights, same as that described in transept. A small plain square aumbry is at the right side of window.

The second chapel measures in the clear 10 feet 6 inches from north to south, and 13 feet from east to west; it has one recessed altar-tomb, same as before described, at each side, and an east window, as in the adjoining chapel. On the pier between the chapels are two projecting corbels, which appear to have supported

figures. From the nave you enter the chancel, under the arches of the centre tower. These central towers are a peculiarity in the abbey churches of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries in Ireland; they are generally rectangular on plan; sometimes square, of slight dimensions, varying in height from 50 to 100 feet, and divided into three or more stages by chamfered or molded strings; they are without buttresses, exceedingly plain in detail; they never exhibit the rich panelling and elegant openwork parapets of similar periods in England and on the Continent: the parapets are always embattled, and sometimes exhibit interesting varieties of that feature, as at Jerpoint, Limerick, and Quin. The masonry generally is carefully executed: it will be usually remarked that the workmanship of the tower is the best of the whole edifice. The tower of the Franciscan Friary at Adare is 72 feet in height, and is divided into three stages by two chamfered string-courses; it is lighted by a square, rectangular, and chamfered ope at the east side, close under the upper string; same at the west side; a two-light, square-headed window in the upper stage at the north side; a similar window at the south side in the second stage; and two rectangular chamfered opes under the last. The arch under tower leading into the chancel is pointed, 24 feet in height, and 9 feet 3 inches in width. At the left-hand side as you enter is a small door leading into the ambulatory. I have often been struck with the narrowness of the chancel arches existing in the abbey churches of this period; in many instances they are scarcely wider than ordinary doors, forming a sort of vestibule to the chancel.

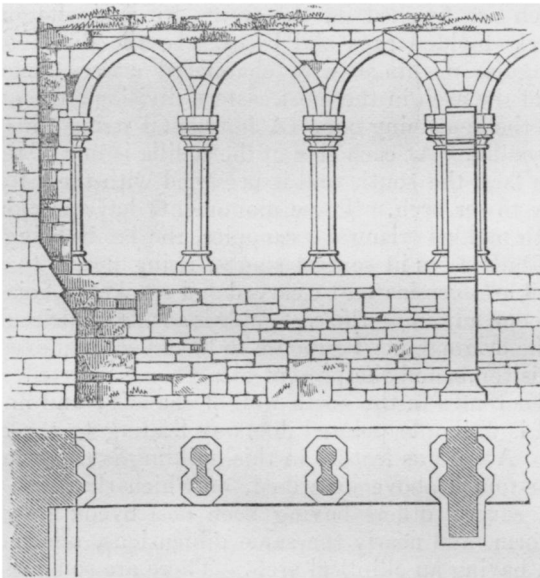
The chancel is in length from east to west 44 feet, and in breadth 19 feet, exactly the same as nave, the length being very nearly two-thirds that of the nave. This proportion is very nearly observed in most of the religious houses of this period, and principally of the Franciscans and Dominicans. Thus at Buttevant the nave is 73 feet, while the chancel is 56, which, indeed, is about the proportion of 4 to 3. In the Dominican Abbey at Kilmallock the nave is 85 feet, and the chancel 67, being in the proportion of about 5 to 4. This disproportion between nave and chancel is in curious contradistinction to the abbey churches of the Cistercian Order in this country. Thus at Holy Cross the nave is 95 feet in length, while the chancel is but 22 feet 6 inches. Again, in the abbey church of Boyle, belonging to the same Order, the nave is 155 feet in length, and the chancel but 25 feet. On the other hand, while the chancel arches of the churches of the before-mentioned Orders are of exceeding small dimensions, those of the Cistercians are, on the contrary, of ample width and lofty proportions. Thus, the chancel at Boyle is the whole width of nave, and over 40 feet in height. The east window is of four lights, of the usual plain and unornamented character which prevailed at the period, the mullions being

simply chamfered, without transoms, and intersecting each other in simple curves, without cusplings. Such windows are found at Askeaton, Quin, Rathkeale, Timoleague, and most other ecclesiastical erections of the fifteenth century in this country. Indeed, it is the characteristic window of that period of Irish church architecture which ranges with the Perpendicular of England, and the Flamboyant of France. Some of those windows, though simple in character, are exceedingly graceful in form. The windows at the south side are four in number, each of two lights, under a horizontal label, with chamfered jambs and mullions. This class of window more usually appertains to domestic buildings, though it is sometimes found in ecclesiastical works of the fifteenth century, and very generally forms the east window, of those simple and unpretending parish churches, the ruins of which are so numerous through the country. There is also one similar light at the north side.

The sedilia is in its usual position in the south wall, near the altar: it is of three bays, having pointed arches, well molded, with labels. The seats are all on the same level, and are divided by piers, which are finished on the fronts by semi-octagonal shafts, having finely molded caps and bases. In the dividing piers are two rectangular openings, with chamfered arrises—one near the springing of the arch in the most eastern division; the other at the bottom of the remaining one. A horizontal string runs along the wall over sedilia. At each side of the sedilia is one of the recessed tombs,—in fact, the south wall is occupied with them from the sedilia to the tower arch. These monuments have circular molded arches, with molded triangular canopies, the jambs being decorated with small buttresses in several stages, rising nearly to the top of canopy, and are terminated by carved and crocketed finials. In the back of the one adjoining the east gable is a rude semicircular-headed piscina: the original one I suppose to have been removed, to make way for this tomb, and the present meagre one inserted. There are three similar tombs in the north wall of chancel; and in the centre of the wall is a simple pointed doorway leading to the conventual buildings. A curious feature in this building is the number of recessed altar-tombs above described, of which there are seventeen remaining, several others having been destroyed: they are all of the same form, and nearly the same dimensions, one only, before alluded to, having an elliptical arch. There are some slight differences of details, but no inscriptions, or any evidence to show for whom or by whom they were erected. Monuments of an exactly similar character are to be found in many other abbey churches in the south and west of Ireland, as at O'Dorney, Lislaghtin, Quin, and many others: they are evidently of a late date, and are always insertions: I should ascribe them to the middle and latter part of

the sixteenth century, as they exhibit unmistakable evidences of the poverty of design and inferiority of execution which marked, in that and the latter half of the preceding century, the decline of ecclesiastical architecture in this country.

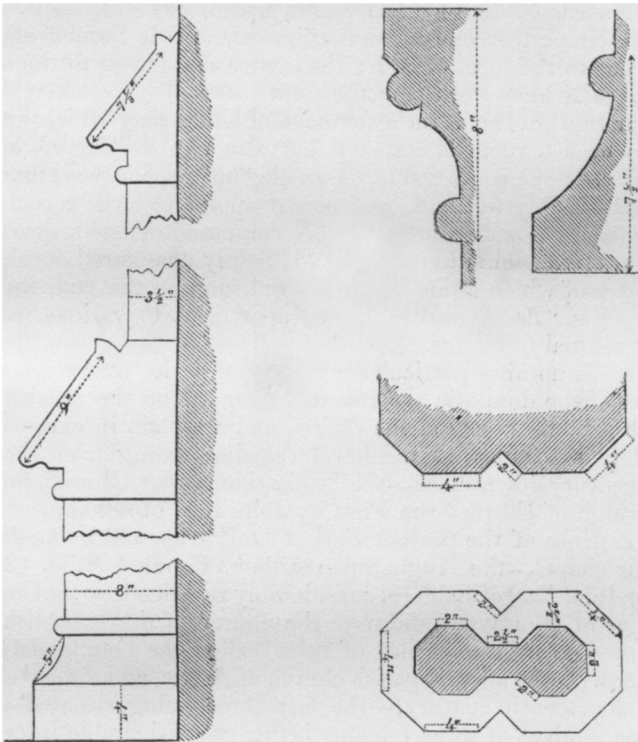
The cloister court is 34 feet square in the clear of the arcades which surround it: it is in its usual position at the north side of the church, from which there is an entrance to it by a doorway in the north wall of tower: it is surrounded on three sides by the conventual buildings, and on the fourth by the church. In the centre of the court is a venerable yew. The monastic Orders seem to have had a great predilection for this sombre tree, as we find it in the cloisters of Mucross, Askeaton, and Quin. This court is arcaded on three sides—the north, east, and west. The north side has four bays, each two divided by plain buttresses: each bay is subdivided in three lights, with chamfered arches, jambs, and mullions. The east side is similar to the above: the west side is of different character. The accompanying woodcut represents an elevation and plan of one of the bays, drawn to scale.



The following are some of the dimensions: height of buttresses, 6 feet 4 inches; of basement or sole on which the coupled columns stand, 2 feet 9 inches; thickness of same, 1 foot 7 inches; height of base of columns, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; of shaft of ditto, 2 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; of cap, 8 inches; entire height of octagon columns, 3 feet 6 inches;

span of arches, 2 feet 3 inches ; height from ground line to soffit of arches, 7 feet 6 inches.

The material used in this work is a dark, close-grained limestone, and the details are sharply wrought and in good preservation. The accompanying diagrams show the details of this side of cloister, drawn to a large scale, exhibiting the plan of the coupled octagonal shafts, the arch molding, the profiles of the cap, and base of shafts, and a complete profile of one of the very curious buttresses, the molded weathering of which is well worthy of remark.



It is curious what enemies to mere uniformity the ancient builders were at Quin, Askeaton, and Mucross. The same difference exists in the various arcades of the cloisters. The ambulatory was not arched, but simply roofed against the surrounding buildings. The corbels that supported the plates of the lean-to roofs remain ; and the cut-stone water-tables which protected the junction of the roofs and walls still remain. The width of the ambulatory was but 6 feet 6 inches. The student cannot help being struck with the extreme

simplicity and beauty of this miniature cloister, the dimensions of which are extremely small; yet are the proportions exceedingly symmetrical, and the workmanship remarkably well executed. I would recommend the visitor to stand in the cloister court, and, looking toward the north wall of the church, he will observe a very exquisite bit of design in the gable of a small building that forms a portion of the south side of the cloister.

Flanking the western ambulatory is the kitchen, a large apartment, 69 feet in length, and $18\frac{1}{2}$ feet in breadth: it is solidly vaulted with rubble, and contains two dilapidated fireplaces, of large dimensions, each being 7 feet in width, clear of jambs. The arch of the perfect one is semi-elliptical, and is formed of three stones cut to the form of arch: the centre one keyed to the others by triangular keys worked in the solid.

Over the kitchen is an apartment of equal size, which appears to have been a room of state: it has also two fireplaces,—one in particular, in the south gable, is an elegant piece of workmanship, being remarkably well cut, and poised upon two large corbels projecting from the wall, the arch being composed of small, neatly cut and jointed voussoirs, over which is a boldly chamfered cornice, on the centre of which a lion is well carved, and on the ends knots of leaves. Four doors lead from this apartment to various parts of the conventual buildings.

There is nothing particularly worthy of notice in the remaining portions of the domestic apartments: they are on the usual plan of all such establishments of the period, and are plain in execution.

Adare abounds with mediæval remains, dating from the thirteenth century downwards—the Trinitarian Abbey Church, founded in the reign of Edward the First by John Earl of Kildare, restored at the expense of the present Earl of Dunraven, and now a Roman Catholic chapel—the Augustinian Abbey, founded A. D. 1316 by another John Earl of Kildare, considerably re-edified by the Countess Dowager of Dunraven, and now the church of the Establishment. There is also a large group of ruins called the Desmond Castle; together with the ancient parish church of Adare, and a small church of the fourteenth century,—the last three being situated in the demesne. Most of these remains being of considerable interest, I hope to be able to bring them before you at some future time.
